

CLASSIFICATION

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC General Military Information

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

PREPARED 11 March 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. At 4 a.m. on 28 January, a unit was detrained at the Leisnig railroad station, having come from the direction of Doebeln. The shipment included 4 trucks, 2 jeeps, 2 armored scout cars model BA-64 and 8 JS-2s and JSU-122s. The unit marched to the Busche Kaserne.¹ From 2 to 5 a.m. on 17 February, 16 rocket launchers, and 12 trucks towing 85-mm AA guns moved out of the Friedrich-August Kaserne and proceeded toward Poehlen. Three platoons of 30 to 40 soldiers each, equipped with carbines and submachine guns made a forced march toward the same direction during the same period, while armored vehicles moved out of the Busche Kaserne toward Gorschwitz. [redacted] the vehicles drove to the Thuenmiltzswald Woods near Leipzig. From 2 to 5 a.m. on 18 February, 12 BA-64 armored scout cars [redacted] 12 motorcycles and 6 sidecar motorcycles drove out of the Busche Kaserne. The noise of running tanks was heard from the exit to Gorschwitz. The vehicles drove to the Thuenmiltz Woods with their headlights dimmed. [redacted] the columns left toward Wernsdorf in the afternoon. On the afternoon of 20 February jeep [redacted] and the following trucks returned to the installation, with some of the trucks carrying soldiers, gasoline barrels and planks: [redacted]

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2. At 4:45 p.m. on 8 February, a convoy of eight sedans [redacted] carrying three generals and other officers drove through Gotha in the direction of Eisenach. At 5:05 p.m. on 9 February, a convoy of 7 four-wheel armored scout cars and 6 trucks, each with a motor boat, drove through Ohrdruf, proceeding in the direction of Eisenach. The motor vehicle [redacted] were identified. At 2:30 p.m. on 10 February, 6 prime movers, each carrying 8 soldiers and towing a 122-mm gun drove from the direction of Ohrdruf toward Eisenach. [redacted]

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Trucks

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moved along the Schwabhausen-Ohrdruf road in the direction of Ohrdruf on 16 February.³

3. At 7:30 a.m. on 13 February, a unit drove to the Weimar freight station for entrainment; coming from the direction of Ettersburger Strasse. It consisted of 240 to 260 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying full field pack, 15 to 20 women, 42 trucks, 5 x 37-mm AA guns and 4 jeeps. The shipment pulled out toward Weissenfels at 10:30 a.m.⁴ At 11:30 a.m., another unit arrived at the station for entrainment from the same direction. The unit included 38 trucks, some of them loaded with billeting equipment, 5 x 85-mm AA guns, 2 sedans and 220 troops who were equipped with full field pack. The shipment left in the direction of Weissenfels at 5:30 p.m.⁴ The following shipments passed through the Weimar railroad station:

At 9 p.m. on 13 February: 74 trucks and 4 artillery pieces, coming from the direction of Erfurt and driving toward Weissenfels.

At 11 p.m.: an undetermined number of flatcars with 39 trucks and 1 artillery pieces and 6 boxcars, also coming from the direction of Erfurt and proceeding toward Weissenfels

At 4 a.m. on 14 February: 39 trucks, 1 artillery piece and 6 boxcars.

At 5:30 p.m. on 18 February: 7 tanks, 11 trucks and 4 boxcars.

At 8 a.m. on 19 February: 24 trucks, 5 jeeps, 9 artillery pieces and 12 boxcars. All these shipments came from the direction of Erfurt and proceeded toward Weissenfels.

On 20 February: 11 trucks and 20 boxcars from Weissenfels toward Erfurt.

4. On 21 February, the unloading of the last cars of a train at the Forst Zinna railroad station. About 30 soldiers and 6 JS-3 tanks were unloaded from a train of 30 flatcars.⁶

5. The following detrainments were observed at the Chemnitz railroad station:

At 4 p.m. on 20 February: about 140 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, 6 x 76.2-mm AA guns and 20 trucks

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At 6 p.m. on 21 February: about 400 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, 18 x 37-mm AA guns and 34 motor vehicles

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- [] 25X1
6. At 7:15 p.m. on 24 February, a train of 10 boxcars and 5 flatcars carrying 20 x 76.2-mm field guns guarded by soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets stood at the Naumburg railroad station, faced in the direction of Apolda. [] 25X1
7. On 25 February, the Panzer Kaserne in Spremberg was only lightly occupied. Motor vehicle [] was identified in the billeting area. The following observations were made on the autobahn Cottbus-Berlin: 10 JS-3 tanks [] 25X1
and motor vehicle [] stood at the autobahn exit of Haechnchen, 25X1
headed toward Cottbus. There was traffic of columns from Vetschau in the direction of Berlin. The vehicles [] 25X1
with field kitchen and they drove with their lights out. Sentries with signal lamps directed the traffic at the approach to Vetschau, where the autobahn branches off to Presden, and at the exit to Dabau. A convoy of 75 trucks, some with lights out, carrying troops with fuel field pack moved along the autobahn between Freiwalde and Duben in a southeasterly direction at about 12 p.m. They included vehicles [] 25X1
[] A small convoy which included vehicle [] was seen on the Cottbus-Vetschau road, with the lights out. 8
1. [] Comment. On 17 January, a unit of the 64th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the 8th Gds Mecz Div was entrained. The shipment was identified [] when it passed through Dresden the same day. The unit is assumed to have been transferred to Koenigsbrueck for combat firing practice and to have possibly returned to the post on 28 January. [] 25X1
2. [] Comment. Units of the 8th Gds Mecz Div from Wurzen made practice marches near the military post on 10 and 11 February. Units of the division from Grimma and, allegedly, also from Wurzen, occupied a camp south of the town in Klosterholz Forest after 15 February. On 15 February, components of the 65th Mort Brig [] of the 6th Arty Div from Patherow were shipped to Grimma on two trains. On 17 and 18 February, the 64th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt from Leisnig, to which belong the armored scout cars and motorcycles in the Busche Kaserne, as well as the 358th Gds AAA Regt and the unidentified RL battalion from Leisnig also moved out. It is believed that the field exercise, at least, extended as far as the area of Wernsdorf Forest, possibly, however, as far as Riesa, from where elements of the division returned to their quarters on 21 February also by rail. It is believed that, except for the troops from Leisnig, also units from Grimma were involved in the exercise, as tank [] observed with the tank shipment. In Riesa was identified in Grimma in January 1953. The units of the 65th Mort Brig [], too, were loaded in Riesa on 20 or 21 February and shipped to Patherow. The exact data on weapons confirm the 358th Gds AAA Regt and the unidentified rocket launcher battalion of the 8th Gds Mecz Div in Leisnig until 17 February 1953. [] 25X1
3. [] Comment. The column traffic was made exclusively by the Eighth Gds Army. [] 25X1
4. [] Comment. The two shipments of the 13th AAA Div were observed [] when they were loaded in Weimar. [] units of the division were shipped to the field exercises of the XXIX Gds Itz Rifle Corps in Gera on three trains on 13 February. [] 25X1

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5. Comment. [redacted] the trains with units of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div on 13 February presumably came from Gotha. [redacted] 25X1
6. Comment. Definite information [redacted] proved that about 40 tanks of the 6th Gds Tank Div were entrained at the Forst Zinna Railroad station and returned to Wittenberg on 21 February, after completion of combat firing practice at the Werder-Markendorf troop training grounds. [redacted] 25X1
7. Comment. [redacted] a troop train from Premnitz to Chemnitz on 21 February. It was then assumed that, possibly, units of the 6th Gds AAA Div [redacted] participated in field exercises of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army in the Rathenow area prior to 20 February [redacted] This conclusion is confirmed to some extent by the information in the present report that two shipments of the 25X1 division were unloaded. 25X1
8. Comment. [redacted] the barracks installations in Luebben and Spremberg to have only lightly been occupied on 25 February. [redacted] two tank shipments of the 9th Mecz Div at the Kladorf and Doberlug railroad stations and the unloading of a third at the Paruth railroad station. [redacted] The observations contained in the present report regarding the Cottbus-Berlin autobahn confirm march exercises of the 9th Mecz Div in the area north-west of Cottbus on and after 25 February 1953. 25X1

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